

words & vision

UCFV Faculty and Staff Association Newsletter

December 1993 Vol. 1, No. 2

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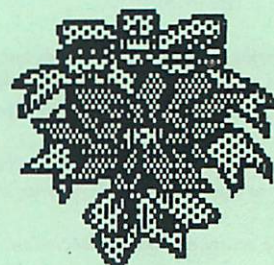
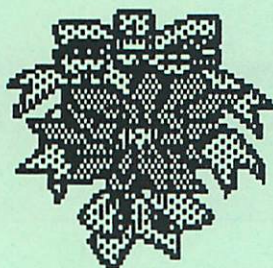
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FSA NEWSLETTER

December 1993

From The Editor . . .

First, thanks for the positive feedback on the newsletter's new look. The most provocative piece in the premiere issue, oddly enough, was the noodle recipe; see Letters below for more on the 'linguini conspiracy'. In this issue, along with several features on regular business, we've also included a few celebratory touches to herald the festive season.

Yes, Yuletide already -- and another New Year of relentless growth and change just around the corner. I don't know about you, but I need to pause and gird my psychic loins (to mangle a Brainsex metaphor) after this hectic term. Since joining the FSA executive, I've been exposed to much more of what's really going on round UCFV, and there are so many crucial political, organizational, etc., developments demanding our attention that each week seems to swirl down into a 'vortex of cruciality'. The CIEA Crisis; the fundamental issues of governance, i.e., how we decide to run ourselves; teaching on Saturdays?; and so on—we continue to operate in an environment of rapid and constant change, and that generates its own weird dynamic.

Educational institutions are by nature conservative -- it's where you enshrine the Great White Dead Guys, after all -- and resistant to abrupt shifts and re-alignments of priorities, or at least we want the chance to be thoughtful about them. But it seems we can no longer afford such luxury. Not only are we overwhelmed with practical matters in the here and now, but we're also chivvied from meeting to meeting where we must think creatively on demand and plan strategically for a series of alternatively

potential tomorrows. Fine. More meetings, more committees, more warm bodies around tables -- but is all that getting the jobs done? Or... is it leading to a kind of mental gridlock wherein progress becomes mired in process, and, ironically sometimes, momentous policies are consummated in a moment because of decision-fatigue and impending time-lines?

Maybe what we need is a New Idea, a different mode of decision-making in institutions like UCFV. Perhaps a crash course in thinking in the future tense would be a good starting point. What do you think?

For another angle on this problem, consider these helpful abbreviations: UCAC, CIEA, PAC, ACC, JPDC, JPAC, ESS, LTCA, CACA, to name but a few. Isn't it time to **stop the madness**, or at least slim it down -- I mean, the reckless proliferation of acronyms? It's a well-documented fact that the human mind can hold no more than 7 handy acronyms at any given time. We need to 'prioritize', as they say. At the top of my list, of course, will be RAFT, or 'resist acronym formation today'. In the New Year I pledge to just say 'no' to capital letters, and to speak to colleagues in complete words and sentences -- and damn the consequences.

A couple of things came up in the last executive meeting for your attention. Members should note that contributions to memorial scholarships in the names of Mircho Jakobow and Doug McDowell, and, in general, can be made directly to the FSA office. Also, it's been reported that the job postings at ABBY and CHWK are being, literally, 'ripped off' their hinges; please help

to ensure that everyone gets a chance to peruse the postings.

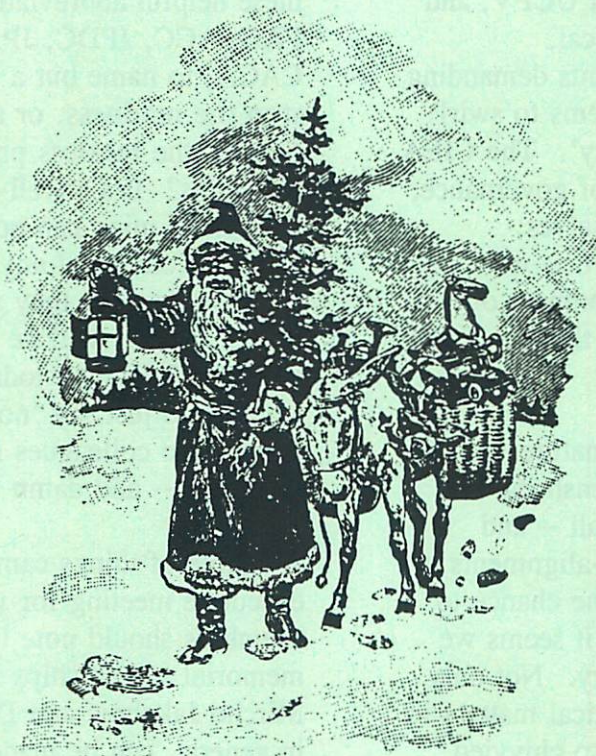
Finally, may your Xmas joys be unrefined; here's a merry Dickensian visionette as stocking-stuffer:

As I sit marking papers, dazed and bemused, I can almost hear the snickedy-click of a million credit cards facilitating meaningful purchases this holiday season. And somehow this gets muddled in my head with my marking; a nagging thought about being in 'the business of education' hovers at the dusky edge of consciousness. Suddenly, I slump over my stack of papers and fall into a dream:

The Phantom, slowly, gravely and silently approached.... It was shrouded in a deep black garment, which concealed its head, its face, its form, and left nothing visible save one outstretched hand. 'Ghost of the future,' I exclaimed. 'It's you I fear most! In answer, the phantom spread its dark robe like a wing, blotting out the room, and then withdrawing it revealed: The beautiful tangerine clocktower of Abby Campus, with each clock face showing different times as usual, glistening in the brilliant sunlight.

My heart soared up. But, over-reaching the tower, high above in the cold blue sky strode strident golden arches -- enclosing it in an obscene embrace. Below an epitaph proclaimed these terrible words: 'millions served daily'.

-Richard Dubanski



Letters to the Editor . . .

Dear Richard:

This is my second letter to the Editor of an FSA newsletter in 19 years, so you can judge the importance I place on the subject matter. Educational, governmental and professional matters may rise and fall over the years, but good food, now there's something of real and lasting importance!

Your recipe for "Apocalyptic Linguini" in the October issue sounds absolutely magnificent! However, I wonder if it's responsible of us to promote the use of raw eggs?

Gourmet Magazine, for example, no longer publishes recipes calling for uncooked eggs,

due to the spreading epidemic of egg borne salmonella.

Should we be less responsible than *Gourmet*? Could we be sued if one of our members had a personal and total apocalypse after eating "Apocalyptic Linguini" made with infected raw eggs?

Perhaps, at least, a footnote to the recipe might be in order?

Sincerely,
Betty Harris

Ed.: Here it is, and thank you for the warning. Certainly we can not be less responsible than Gourmet (though perhaps a little more adventurous?). While egg-borne salmonella can be a threat to the extremely delicate, allergic, or otherwise weakened, most healthy individuals would not be endangered by good quality uncooked eggs. Perhaps we should think of this as 'eating on the edge', for those who enjoy un-safe dining but cannot afford exotica like blow-fish. You can, alternatively, cook the eggs longer, though that will alter the characteristic texture of Apocalyptic Linguini.

Dear Richard:

Unions and discrimination? Sounds unlikely. FSA and discrimination? Sounds bizarre. Yet, this appears to be the trend here towards a particular group of employees.

Just a bit of a background: In previous wage settlements to prevent a spreading gap between pay groups, concerned staff colleagues VOTED (2 or 3 times) to give higher % increases to the lower pay groups, thus keeping the pay groups and increment steps in intended relationship. Previous to

the vote, these issues were discussed and passed (not unanimously) by ballot vote. Somehow (unintentionally), a precedent seems to have been established that the employees in the higher pay groups are either overpaid, classified too high, or comparatively wealthy. Therefore, this group became a target of the FSA Executive's "good intentions." Early this year, it was the "Equality Fund" that handed out a tidy sum to some staff employees according to an idea formulated on the mistaken belief that our

JCAC audited system is gender biased. For those who are not familiar with the system, it is based on points assigned to the various requirements of the performed job, such as knowledge, skills, responsibility, impact of decision making, external and/or internal contacts, etc. This system, although not perfect (there are no perfect systems), was designed to comply with the federal recommendations on equality in the work place. Now, apparently our FSA Executive's "good intentions" recommendations are on the topic of parking fees. (Aren't we doing the management job here?) How can we dispute even the need for the parking fees or grieve if we involve ourselves in the establishment of even a proposal to tax ourselves? Have we even discussed if the funds collected are going to be directed towards an unique and special project or other need not usually funded by the base budget?

The proposal for the parking fee is to charge \$7.50 for all who earn below \$35,000 per year, and \$15.00 for all other employees. There also might be total exemptions from parking fees planned. Despite being a woman, despite being paid much less than most women at the UCFV, I (and a few others) was excluded from the Equity handout. Now I am (and a few others) being targeted again for a higher parking fee. What

is the rationale behind the Executive's "good intentions"? What is so magical about \$35,000? Is it the threshold of wealth? Maybe we should have a means test instituted? \$35,000 divided by 3 or 4 members of family is less than \$30,000 added to another salary. We are being paid here according to the jobs we are performing. Any artificial manipulation of our earnings is unfair, uncalled for, and undemocratic. The power to do so, if any is to be given, can only come through ballot voting. The ballot voting should follow an exhaustive discussion (via FSA newsletter, or solicited input from members of the FSA).

Therefore, please do not discriminate against me any further. I believe that I contribute to the success of UCFV as much as my colleagues with whom I work daily and whom I respect.

Barbara Pinkiewicz

P.S. From the *Vancouver Sun*, December 8, 1993, page A2, "RRSPs help rich"... : according to Randy White, finance critic for the Reform Party, "The guy earning \$50,000 or less is barely keeping his head above the water while others making \$70,000, \$80,000 or more are simply looking to hide as much income as possible from the tax man."

Ed: Thanks. Your point is cogent—and respectfully taken. No doubt your letter will galvanize a discussion of this issue.

Quote of the Day . . .

"I don't care what is written about me, as long as it isn't true."

- Dorothy Parker

President's Report . . .

The pace of change is accelerating as space and funding shortfalls become more evident. Almost all the proposals now floating around for how to restructure and reorganize have to do with a shortage of resources, and resulting attempts to improve efficiency. In most cases, the changes affect working conditions and other matters governed by the collective agreement.

Pay Parking

The proposal passed by the Committee of the Whole on November 30th is to charge those making more than \$35,000 a year \$15.00 a month, those making less than \$35,000 a year \$7.50 a month, and students \$1.00 a day, commencing January 1, 1994. This would produce, after costs, \$130,000.00 a year in revenue.

On November 30, I asked the Board to consider:

1. The cost to most FSA members is very high, but the return for the institution is pretty low. (The difference is pocketed by the company hired to put in the ticket machines and so on.)
2. The payment is made on after-tax income, thus increasing the actual cost to FSA members.
3. That the impact on car use, given the lack of alternatives, will be minimal.

Since that meeting, we've discovered that other Lower Mainland colleges do not charge staff to park, or give them the option of less convenient parking if they don't want to pay.

I will discuss the matter with the Board again.

The Intersession or Summer Session

This idea is motivated by an attempt to make better use of facilities. This idea has major contract as well as general working conditions implications.

Many people would prefer to teach in the summer and take holiday and PD time in the winter or fall term. However, what do we do about committee and department meetings? Do department heads and assistants and support staff work year-round? How do we ensure that everyone gets adequate PD and holiday time? How do we accommodate the extra hiring? Who does evaluations and handles program-related issues?

Cost-Recovery Courses

The idea here is to expand to meet demand by having students pay directly for the cost of courses.

This idea has met with considerable controversy, with some faculty supporting the idea and others not. For those who support it, the argument is that students who can afford to pay the fee clear spaces for those who can't, and, in any event, having a course available at a higher fee is better than having no course at all. Those who don't support the idea argue that it is analogous to a two-tier health system, where a life-saving operation is available in a private clinic, but anyone who can't afford the clinic goes on a waiting list. It is unlikely that the practise, once begun, will be stopped, for demand is

likely to outstrip funding for some time, and, also, the institution will come to depend on the revenue produced.

From the perspective of the FSA, there are two primary concerns. The first is that such a major policy shift get wide debate. The idea has gone to UCAC as part of the Strategic Plan, and has been debated at the Strategic Plan forums, so people have had the opportunity to talk about it. The second is that we not create a two-tier faculty and staff structure, with those teaching or supporting cost-recovery courses working on a different basis than those funded by the base budget. This could rapidly destroy collegiality and make administering the collective agreement extremely difficult, to say nothing of the precarious position of those who end up working in an "inferior" tier.

We have been assured that hiring will be done by the relevant departments, that people will be covered by the collective agreement, and that they will have the same rights as the rest of us. It remains for us, if the Board decides to go ahead, to ensure that **those we hire are suitable in every respect to become regular members of our departments.**

The Six-Day Week

The idea here is to create a Wed/Sat teaching timetable such as the Tues/Fri blocks we now have. Again, the motive is to make better use of facilities.

This idea hasn't yet surfaced anywhere for discussion by faculty and staff, though a memo warning us it is being considered has appeared.

This idea definitely has contractual implications. We ignore, in some cases,

infringements on the collective agreement when it comes to the number of preps people are required to do or the timing of classes, because small programs can't run otherwise. The temptation, with this idea, will be to timetable people for a six-day week, on the same grounds. The scheduling of department meetings, for example, may force someone to choose between a day off and participating in the department meetings. It is very easy to make a necessity out of an opportunity. The FSA cannot permit the loss of two days off a week.

The Modified Timetable

The idea here is to create one-and-a-half hour blocks rather than the one-hour and forty-minute blocks we now have in order to fit more classes into the day.

This has not been debated either, though some have already pointed out that 4 credit courses can't drop their meeting times any further. Others have suggested three 50-minute periods a week. Make sure this is discussed in your area.

The Clearbrook Technology Centre

No significant consultations on the contractual implications of this project have been held, although negotiations on it appear to be proceeding rapidly. This project involves a contract-for-service from the local school board, with our faculty and staff offering trades training to high school. It is an exciting project, but we need to ensure that the faculty and staff involved continue to work under the provisions of the collective agreement. The current understanding is that programming typically offered by a post secondary institution will be run by UCFV with UCFV employees.

The Mission Project

This project, which involves sharing a site and many services with a new Mission high school, is being developed with broad involvement from Mission community members. Again, it is an exciting project, and again, we need to try to sort out what the contractual implications might be. In both the Clearbrook and Mission projects, other unions are involved, and they too will have something to say about bargaining unit jurisdiction and working conditions.

The Nursing Consortium

The idea here is to form a consortium with Douglas, Kwantlen and OLA (Open Learning Agency) to offer a nursing degree. The problems, as we saw them, were forwarded to UCAC, and to management. An initial meeting with the planners revealed no serious contractual issues at this point, though we have some concerns remaining about a proposal to offer BCIT courses, via OLA, to UCFV students.

I discussed with the Board November 30 how I thought we might begin to sort some of the issues out. The FSA has two roles. One is to ensure that faculty and staff are involved in deciding the issues that affect them. The other is to monitor the collective agreement. The same people can't do both. The latter requires a level of legal expertise and familiarity with the contract that most members don't have. Thus a separate process is required for the second role. It is not sufficient to involve FSA members in a process; it is also necessary (and certainly prudent) to create a process which focusses on the implications of an idea for the collective agreement.

Meanwhile . . .

An issue which we'll soon have to contend with is **automated teaching**—courses offered through computer-based technologies. Rather than responding piecemeal to this, we need to think through the kind of criteria we might employ to determine when such a course "works," when such a course would become part of our accredited curriculum, how course-ware originating off-campus will be handled, and how faculty and staff jobs will be integrated into the collective agreement. Computer-based (including video-conferencing and multi-media) courses pose problems for us because they tend to demand a different "industrial" organization of teaching, a different administrative structure. They also raise issues of quality-controls and accreditation. For example, an increasing amount of "course ware" is produced by the private sector for profit.

At the same time, **automation of administration** is already occurring, and the character and nature of many of our jobs is changing as a result. As we introduce new systems of record-keeping, and record-accessing, many of the jobs we do change as well.

The Joint Committee on Staff Workload, set up under the collective agreement we signed in October, will address some of these concerns, but not all of them. The executive, at its meeting last week, approved a proposal for a Council on Technological and Structural Change (TASC), with representation from senior management and the union executive, to look at the implications for working conditions and other issues as proposals come forward. We have not yet had a full discussion of the idea with the management group.

CIEA Vote

News of our vote to remain a member of CIEA was greeted with evident pleasure by the presidents of other locals of CIEA, and by the CIEA executive. At the moment, some

CIEA locals are deciding whether or not they want to form a bargaining council.

Christmas Break

A happy, restful and peaceful holiday to you all.

-Cheryl Dahl

I hope that one or two immortal lyrics come out of all this tumbling around.

-poet Louise Bogan on her affair
with Theodore Roethke

The Balloting Process . . .

A process to ensure that the casting of ballots would be secure as well as anonymous for the recent vote, was studied by a working group composed of Kasey Alger, Vera Carswell, Vern Wright, Ellenor Greaves and Tom Davis. Several recommendations were made:

1. A total of seven polling areas were identified, each to be supplied with an unnumbered faculty/staff list and a locked ballot box. They were:

Abbotsford

A Bldg. - Faculty Reception
B Bldg. - Bus. Office Recep.
Trades Bldg. Reception

Chilliwack

Main Bldg. - Faculty Reception
Health Sciences Bldg - Recep.
Agriculture Bldg. - Reception

Mission Registration Desk

Hope Mail Ballots (3 total)

2. Faculty and staff lists were updated by Personnel and the FSA Office. Each employee was given a number by the FSA Assistant, Fenella, on a master list. Only Fenella had access to the list and sent out the ballots in a sealed envelope.
3. Anyone who did not receive a ballot was checked against the FSA dues list for validity.
4. Only the FSA President had access to the ballot box key which is kept in the UCFV business office safe.
5. The ballot boxes had to be opened under the scrutiny of the "ballot-

counting working group" and the key returned by the President to the safe.

In theory, each person was to be checked off a list when the ballot was dropped off in the ballot box. In reality, a few voters were not checked off the employee lists because there were moments (coffee breaks, etc.) when the box was unattended but available for voting. Upon cross-checking only one unauthorized ballot was found in a ballot box. The ballot boxes were collected and the FSA President went to the college safe to obtain the key for

the locks. All boxes were opened in the presence of the "counting committee" and the key was returned to the college safe. Since we only had one unauthorized ballot that was detected, the process appeared very secure.

I would like to thank the individuals who checked off the names, "guarded" the boxes, distributed the boxes, collected the boxes, and counted the ballots. It was a real group effort.

-Tom Davis

Book Review . . .

Culture and Imperialism (1993)

"The foundation of Empire is Art and Science. Remove them or degrade them and the Empire is no more. Empire follows Art and not vice versa as Englishmen suppose".

~ William Blake

Europeans controlled a third of the globe by 1800, two-thirds by 1878 and over four-fifths by 1914. The extensive and sprawling reach of Western imperialism, throughout the nineteenth and most of the twentieth century, is one of the most astounding facts in all human and global history. The Egyptian, Assyrian, Babylonian, Macedonian, Chinese, Roman or Spanish empires were relatively insignificant, both in duration and global dominance, compared with the imperial reach of France, England and the United States. A substantial amount has been done on the economic, political, educational and military aspects of empires; the genius of Said's

Culture and Imperialism is the way he clearly highlights how culture plays a significant role in buttressing the interests of an imperial world view.

Said is mostly concerned with how English and French culture pundits undergirded and legitimated the substantive aspects of their empires. Said argues that it is one thing for intellectuals to critique the aberrations, nostalgia or emerging bourgeois attitudes within their cultures; many of these progressive intellectuals, though, stoutly defended the supremacy of their culture when it confronted another culture (or they were

just silent about the conquests). In France, Tocqueville and Camus, in their different ways, justified and supported the colonization of Algeria. In England, Kipling, Ruskin, Carlyle, Arnold, and Mill, from different perspectives, were opposed to or hesitant about criticising the white man's burden in India and other colonies. These priests of culture, Said insists, played a crucial role in insuring the vision of their culture was predominant.

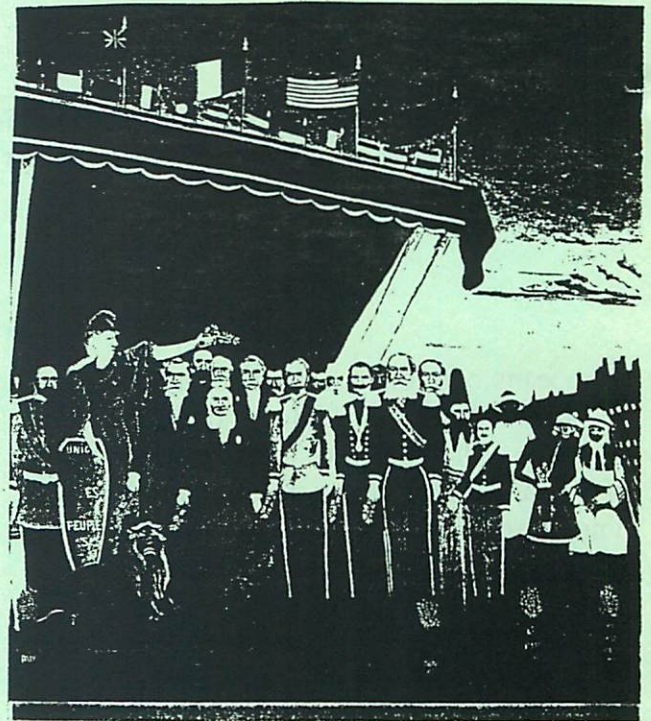
Said divided *Culture and Imperialism* into four distinct yet intersecting chapters. Section one discusses the overlapping territories and intertwined histories of the 1st and 3rd worlds, the industrial and developing states. Said clearly points out how it is important to know the history and the role culture has played in colonization. Section two builds on the stark and often brutal reality of colonization; Said moves on in this section to argue that the conquest of the 3rd world would have been impossible without the consolidating vision of 1st world culture. It was the imperial servants of culture that argued for 1st world supremacy, and it was these scribes of culture who saw it as their responsibility and obligation to civilize the inhabitants of the conquered territories.

Section three looks at the resistance and opposition, initially from within these third world cultures (reactively from 1st world intellectuals), to their imperial masters. Said argues, in this important section, that when the colonized cultures retrieved, revisited and consciously remembered their ancient narratives, the myths of the 1st world began to dissolve. Section four concludes by examining the possibilities, through culture, of resisting domination in the future. Said is certainly not a naive optimist, but he does believe history has an openness to it, and this

means freedom from domination hinges on how freedom is used in the present tense. This is the source of Said's hope: the use of human freedom, through culture, to construct a better and different future.

Said's predominant concern in *Culture and Imperialism* is the way culture can be both used and abused. Said, in this superb work and companion to *Orientalism* (1978), draws from a rich and diverse interdisciplinary background. *Culture and Imperialism*, whether or not we accept all the arguments, will challenge us to think in a more thorough and comprehensive way about the relationship between imperialism and culture, and potential ways to resist such a marriage.

—Ron Dart



CULTURE AND IMPERIALISM

EDWARD W. SAID

Poetic Licence . . .

The following poems are submitted by Carey Vivian, who teaches "What Makes a Poem?" through the Writing and Publishing Program.

Prison Mass

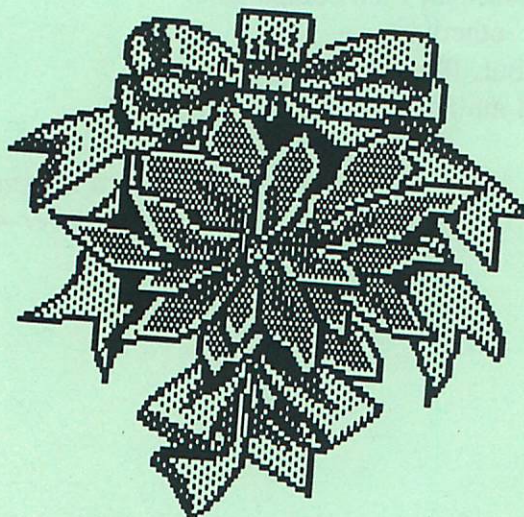
On Christmas morning in this desolate place,
Forsaken as Gomorrah in some dusty Book;
The morning light reluctantly seeps in,
To steal away the vestiges of night.

Like hooded Druids gathering long ago,
On gray and frosty moors by surging seas;
The sullen figures slowly shuffle in,
To offer each their sacrificial gift.

Their hardened faces passive, so unmoved,
Both young and old their priestly robes must wear;
Defiant arms all dressed in profane words,
Proclaim their benediction to the world.

Yet in those vacant eyes a tiny spark,
Betrays their longing to escape and find
Some baptism, some transubstantiation,
Some sacrament to soothe their aching soul.

-John Stonoski



Poem for
This November

With seething simplicity
I have been overtaken.
I am overtaken.
Gone are the angels

So, what am I now?
Vacant heart
Terrified soul
What am I now?

For nothing in particular
I wait
Nothing in particular
Arrives.
Lonely, but not,
That is I.

Watch me sit here.
Watch me leave
like the angels.
Not that I am comparable
otherwise.
But, like the angels
I am now gone.

*Lara Alayne Brodie
November 4, 1993*

Food For Thought . . .

Here's another excerpt from *Comforts and Joy*—to tempt your jaded taste buds.

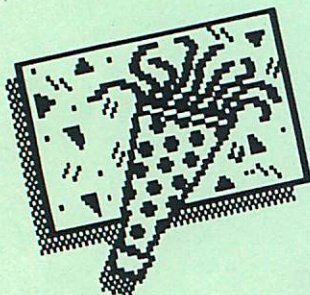
Tiramisu

Ed: Sugar, fat, caffeine, and booze—all the essential food groups! No wonder it's called a 'pick-me-up'

6	large eggs, separated
4 tbsps 60 ml	icing sugar
1/3 cup 80 ml	orange liqueur (e.g. Cointreau)
3 tbsps 45 ml	demerara rum
1 lb 500 g	Mascarpone cheese
1 cup 250 ml	espresso, cooled
4 oz 115 g	semi-sweet chocolate, grated
10 oz 350 g	lady fingers (approximately)

Beat yolks and icing sugar together in a large bowl until light, then beat in 2 tbsps/30 ml of orange liqueur and the rum. Spoon in the mascarpone while beating, and continue to beat until the mixture is smooth. In a clean bowl with clean beaters, whip the egg whites until stiff and fold them gently into the mascarpone mixture.

Mix the espresso with the remaining orange liqueur. Line a 12 cup/3L serving dish with a layer of lady fingers and sprinkle them with 1/4 of the coffee/liqueur mixture. Cover 1/4 of the Mascarpone mixture and sprinkle with 1/4 of the grated chocolate. Repeat steps to make four layers, finishing with grated chocolate. Refrigerate 4 hours or more before serving—good made a day ahead.



Graceful monuments, delicious fortresses, seductive ramparts, which as soon as they are on all sides attached, totter, crumble, and no longer present anything but glorious and ephemeral ruins, like every work of man—all pass away be they temples, columns, pyramids, or pies.

-Alexis Soyer,
The Pantropheon

HOW TO HANDLE STRESS

1. Jam 39 tiny marshmallows up your nose and try to sneeze them out.
2. Use your Mastercard to pay your Visa.
3. Pop some popcorn without putting on the lid.
4. When someone says, "Have a nice day", tell them you have other plans.
5. Find out what a frog in the blender really looks like.
6. Make a list of things to do that you have already done.
7. Forget the diet center and send yourself a candygram.
8. Dance naked in front of your pets.
9. Put your toddler's clothes on him/her backwards and send him/her to pre-school as if nothing was wrong.
10. Retaliate for tax woes by filling out your tax forms with Roman numerals.
11. Tattoo "Out to Lunch" on your forehead.
12. Tape pictures of your boss on watermelons and launch them from high places.
13. Leaf through a National Geographic and draw underwear on the natives.
14. Go shopping; buy everything; sweat in it; return it the next day.
15. Guy a subscription to sleezoid weekly and send it to your boss's wife.
16. Pay your electric bill in pennies.
17. Drive to work in reverse.
18. Relax by mentally reflecting on your favourite episode of "The Flintstones" during an important finance meeting.
19. Sit naked on a shelled, hard-boiled egg.
20. Refresh yourself: Put your tongue on a cold steel guardrail.
21. Tell your boss to blow it out his mule and let him figure it out.
22. Polish your car with earwax.
23. Read the dictionary upside down and look for secret messages.
24. Start a nasty rumour and see if you recognize it when it comes back to you.
25. Bill your doctor for the time spent in his waiting room.
26. Braid the hairs in each nostril.
27. Write a short story, using alphabet soup.
28. Lie on your back, eat celery, using your navel as a salt dipper.
29. Stare at people through the tines of a fork and pretend they're in jail.
30. Make up a language and ask people for directions.

IF ALL OF THE ABOVE FAIL
EAT THIS PAGE AND WASH IT DOWN WITH A BOTTLE OF WINE.

Advance Praise for . . .

Comforts and Joy, the official UCFV cookbook

- *The New Yorker*: "C and J is a literary ragout -- brimming with pungent metaphors for post-modern life .."
- Marshall McLuhan: "The macaroni is the message."
- Hilary Clinton: "unlike my health care reforms, this won't hurt a bit..."
- Naomi Wolf: "pretends to offer universal access to 'comforts and joy' while enforcing a vicious standard of culinary perfection unrealizable by real diners -- designed, in fact, to keep us busy in the kitchen and at table..."
- Freud: "arrested polymorphous gastronomy ..."
- Madonna: "It made me want to take my clothes off..."

Comforts and Joy -- the publishing event of the decade
coming soon to a bookstore near you....

Seasons Greetings